One of the remarkable features of this proposal is that the grant assumes the entire financial burden of supporting the program, from the salary item down to the overhead. The MBL is, in a sense, only the fiscal agent. I myself would concur in a policy that fromed on such arrangements. However, if special circumstances would ever be permitted to mitigate such a policy, they can be argued to apply here. The same remarks apply to the budget, as I would ordinarily consider that the funds are somewhat higher than might be spent on such a project. If one ignores political considerations, and examines only the scientific necessities, the constant temperature unit is surely required, and conceivably the MBL might be unable to furnish the research microscope, but I would question a Sharples centrifuge, pH meter and expensive balance without further inquiry as to the availability of such equipment by the laboratory. Despite these qualifications, the size of the budget is susceptible to the same mitigation pleaded above.

My main concern is that the proposed arrangement, while perhaps valuable or necessary for Lewin's scientific career on a short-term basis, it would be unhealthy or impossible on a longer term, and every emphasis should be given to the emergency and possibly-nonrecurrent character of the award.

If you prefer that I comment in more detail on specific questions, I would be happy to do so. I have no doubt that anguanticatthesof this quality would have received very favorable consideration from the other panels with which P have been acquainted, in relation to the usual standards.

Yours sincerely.

Joshua Lederberg Professor of Genetics

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